

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

14 May 1959

Mr. George H. Becker, Jr.  
Special Assistant to the Secretary  
Department of Commerce  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Becker:

Thank you for your recent letter suggesting that the Department of Commerce be placed on the distribution list for National Intelligence Estimates and other studies that touch upon East-West trade and related matters.

The members of the United States Intelligence Board have been advised of your request. They wished me to assure you that the Department of Commerce will be provided with the information contained in those estimates produced in the future which fall within the scope of your request. At the same time I might note that the Board generally produces relatively few estimates bearing directly on the fields of your special interest. Estimates such as the one on "Implications of an Increase in US-Soviet Trade," for example, are usually done to meet a specific requirement. On the whole, therefore, much of the material such as you are particularly interested in would appear in the form of specialized studies rather than estimates.

With respect to studies other than estimates, I understand that the Department of Commerce, particularly through its representation on the Economic Intelligence Committee (EIC) of the Intelligence Board already receives, or has access to, studies on East-West trade and related matters produced by the EIC and other components of the intelligence community. We are informed, for example, that the studies of EIC and of the Office of Research and Reports (ORR) of CIA on such subjects are normally distributed automatically to the Commerce EIC representative. Also, the Department of Commerce receives

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through its EIC representative the annual EIC survey listings of economic research projects on the Sino-Soviet Bloc, the survey listings on selected non-Bloc areas, and the ORR Status of Projects Report. Commerce representation on the Economic Defense Subcommittee of the EIC, as well as CIA representation on the Economic Defense Advisory Committee and on the Advisory Committee on Export Policy are further channels through which relevant intelligence is made available to the Department of Commerce. Nevertheless, despite these existing arrangements we are passing your letter on to the EIC and the relevant areas of CIA in order that they may continue to have your specific request in mind.

Sincerely,

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[REDACTED]  
Executive Secretary

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